

IT ALL STARTS WITH POLYPS...

Colorectal Cancer develops slowly over a number of years. Before the cancer grows in the colon, polyps are the first to appear. Colorectal polyps are very common, occurring in 15-20% of adults and this prevalence increases with age.

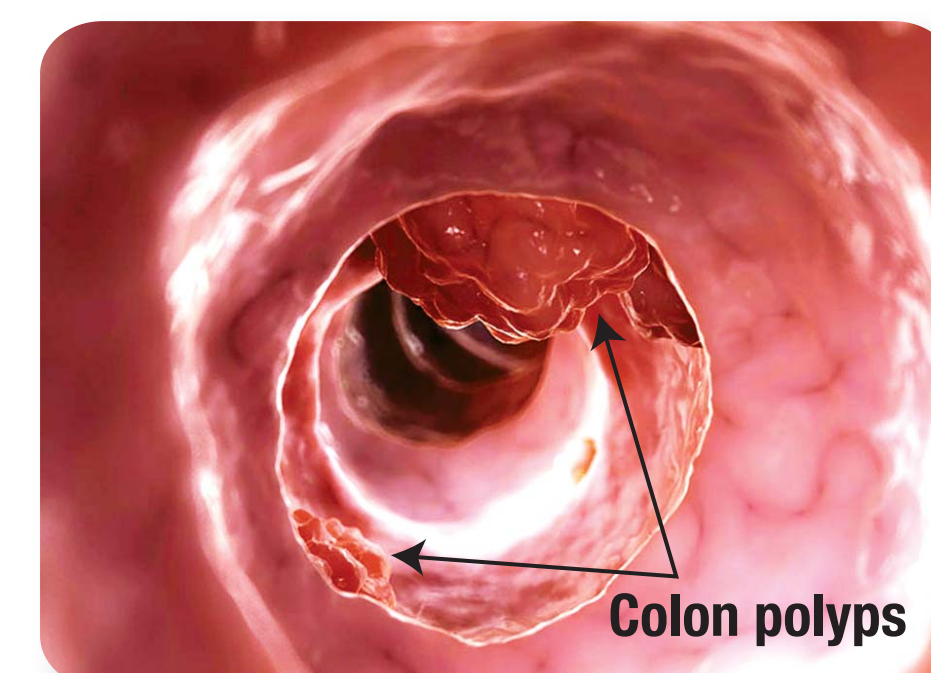
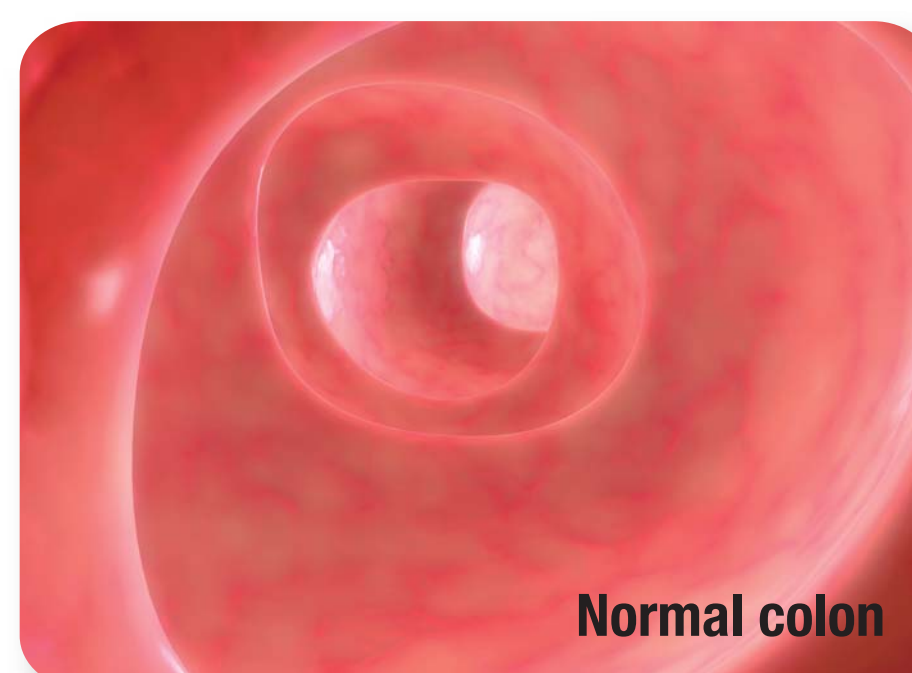
What Are Polyps?

A polyp is an abnormal tissue growth or tumour that appears on the inner lining of the colon or rectum.

Polyps can be:

- Benign: A non-cancerous tumour or tissue growth
- Malignant: Cancerous growth of polyps

There are 2 types of Polyps:



Adenomatous Polyps (Adenomas)

These polyps are a pre-cancerous condition. Fewer than 10% of all adenomas become cancerous. However, more than 95% of colorectal cancers develop from adenomas.

Hyperplastic and Inflammatory Polyps

These polyps are generally considered non-cancerous. If hyperplastic polyps are growing in the ascending colon, there may be an increased risk of developing adenomas and cancer.

Did You Know?

Polyps in the colon cannot be felt or self-detected.

Only a Colonoscopy Screening will reveal and remove polyps, reducing one's risk of colorectal cancer.

FROM A POLYP TO COLORECTAL CANCER

TIMELINE: 10-15 YEARS

Normal Cell

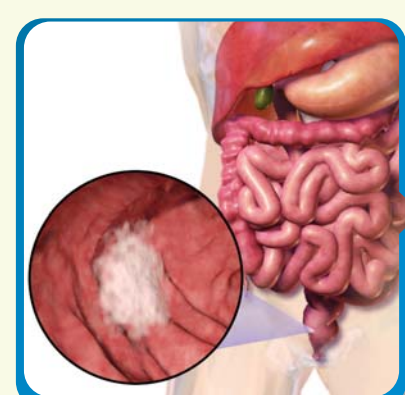
Polyps

Development of Cancer

When Polyps are present, they grow slowly in the wall of the colon or rectum and on average take 10-15 years to become cancer.

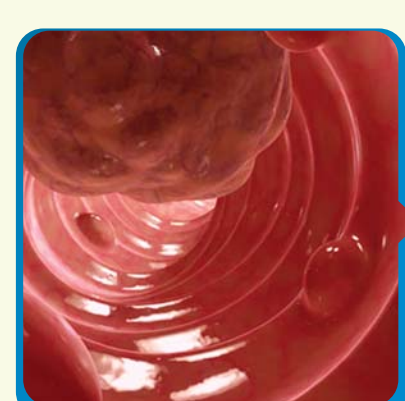
Having polyps in the colon increases one's risk of cancer; hence the removal of polyps through a colonoscopy screening is necessary.

TYPES OF CANCERS IN THE COLON AND RECTUM



Adenocarcinomas

Adenocarcinomas are the most common type of colorectal cancers. They originate from cells that make glands to produce mucus which does the work of lubricating the colon and rectum.



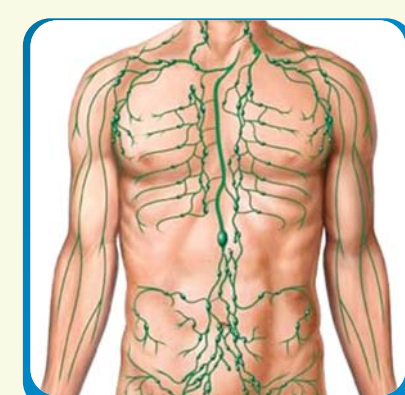
Carcinoid Tumours

These tumours originate from hormone producing cells in the intestine.



Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumours (GISTs)

These tumours may grow in the digestive tract and may be either cancerous or non-cancerous. They originate from specialised cells in the wall of the colon.



Lymphoma

These tumours usually originate from the lymph nodes and they affect the immune system cells. They may also start from the colon, rectum and other organs.



Sarcomas

The blood vessels are where these tumours start from. The muscle and connective tissue in the colon and rectum are other starting points.